

Message Text

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14

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 EB-07 SS-15 SP-02 AGR-05

LAB-04 HEW-04 HUD-01 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 COME-00

NAS-01 NSF-01 OPIC-03 FAA-00 NSC-05 /075 W

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R 160610Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8144

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DEPT PASS ERDA/WASH FOR SIEVERING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IR, USIRJC

SUBJECT: SOLAR ENERGY R&D COOPERATION WITH IRAN

REF: STATE 174549

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, SCIATT CALLED ON DR. VOJDANI, DIRECTOR OF THE MATERIALS AND ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER (MERC) 15 JULY 1976. DR. VOJDANI LOOKS FORWARD TO RECEIVING ERDA'S SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE VISIT OF AN IRANIAN SOLAR ENERGY TEAM TO THE U.S. BUT STATED THIS COULD NOT NOW BE DONE BEFORE MID-OCTOBER. (EARLY IN AUGUST HE WILL BE IN INDIA ON A TEN-DAY VISIT, FROM AUGUST 15 TO SEPTEMBER 15 HE WILL BE ON VACATION, AND FOR THE TWO OR THREE WEEKS THEREAFTER HE WILL BE BUSY ON THE CENTO SYMPOSIUM ON APPLICATIONS OF SOLAR ENERGY TO BE HELD IN TEHRAN OCTOBER 3-5.)

2. HE WOULD PLAN TO HEAD THE TEAM TO THE U.S. AND HIS PRINCIPLE FIELD IS SOLAR CELLS. THERE WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE ONE ARCHITECT(HEATING AND COOLING OF BUILDINGS) AND ONE MECHANICAL ENGINEER (CONCENTRATORS). THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY MIGHT PERHAPS WISH TO ADD ONE OR TWO PERSONS TO THE TEAM. HE WELCOMES THE IDEA OF A RETURN VISIT BY AMERICAN EXPERTS TO

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IRAN SOON THEREAFTER. HE IS WELL AWARE THAT USG R&D STOPS

SHORT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION BUT BELIEVES JOINT PROJECTS MUST HAVE IN VIEW ULTIMATE GOALS OF LICENSING OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

3. SCIATT EXPLAINED GROWING INTEREST OF USIRJC IN SOLAR ENERGY AND POSSIBILITY THAT ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE MIGHT BE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE SOLAR ENERGY IN A BROADER GROUP TO BE CALLED THE ENERGY COMMITTEE. VOJDANI WELCOMED THIS IDEA BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT KIND OF CLOSE COOPERATION ON SPECIFIC, WELL-DEFINED PROJECTS SUCH AS HE WORKED OUT WITH CHEBAL (SP?) OF FRENCH CNRS WOULD NOT BE WATERED DOWN BY HIGH-LEVEL INTERFERENCE. MERC, ACCORDING TO VOJDANI, DOES NOT SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATE JOINT PROJECTS WITH COUNTRIES OTHER THAN FRANCE AND THE U.S. WHEN IDEA OF MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY R&D WAS BROACHED, HE SAID THE AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE WAS SO WORDED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES COULD ENTER INTO THE JOINT PROJECTS AS WELL, AND THE IDEA OF THE U.S. AND FRANCE WORKING WITH IRAN IN THIS FIELD SEEMED TO HAVE GREAT APPEAL FOR HIM.
HELMS

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